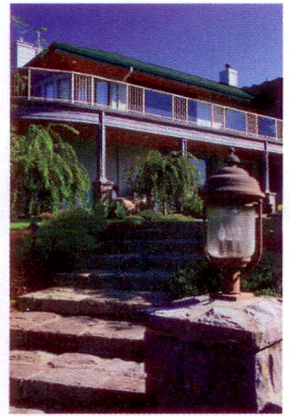




## Exploring the Elements of a COMPLETE LANDSCAPE



The options to incorporate hardscape in your landscape are endless—from a paver patio to a sitting wall or a gravel pathway to a bluestone entryway.

**AN** all around astounding landscape combines premier designing and quality installation of landscape essentials. Landscape essentials set the foundation for the rest of your landscaping and when done correctly will ensure a long-lasting investment to your property.

The following landscape essentials highlight exactly what to consider in preparation of your next landscape project:

Site grading and drainage go hand in hand. You must make sure that your site layout is going to provide proper drainage for water runoff on your property. Excess water and poor drainage can cause major problems such as unusable space, property damage, damage to your foundation, and can kill plants or trees. Solving drainage problems begins with proper site grading and allowing water to flow away from your home to a location where a French drain or a dry creek bed could be installed, which is sometimes considered to be the more attractive solution.

Good, quality soil preparation is the key to producing a successful landscape whether you are installing a lawn or plants. Soil preparation involves weed removal, rototilling, fertilizer, and soil conditioner (compost). After conducting the phases of soil preparation, the soil would need to be finely raked to provide a smooth even grade and then rolled to provide proper compaction to prevent settling later if a lawn is to be installed.

When it comes to choosing a style of lawn, seeding is less costly but may allow the possibility of weeds to grow in with the lawn, yet sod is fast and produces high quality new lawns instantly.

With plants, site selection is the most important aspect to consider. You must take into consideration sun, shade, and, in the northwest, the conditions the plants will face in the winter seasons. You need to make

sure the plants you pick will fit your lifestyle and your environment. Some plants may thrive in the northwest, but require more maintenance than others.

An irrigation system should be installed to accurately maintain the beauty of your lawn and plants. A properly designed irrigation system will distribute water as precisely as possible throughout different locations in your entire landscape. Automatic irrigation systems save you money and are a great choice for water conservation and frequent travelers. Drip irrigation systems are another option to consider for flowerbeds and some interval planting. This allows for even greater water conservation but requires more maintenance.

The construction of hardscapes in sections of your landscape creates a link between your home and your landscape, serving as a passageway from different locations in your landscape or even as a decorative focal point. The options to incorporate hardscape in your landscape are endless—from a paver patio to a sitting wall or a gravel pathway to a bluestone entryway.

Without the inclusion of all the essential pieces of a landscape in your yard it will not be complete. If you need help in completing your design and installation of landscape, you can contact Cascadian Landscapers, Inc., a full-service landscape construction company, at 503-647-9933 or visit their website at [www.CascadianLandscapers.com](http://www.CascadianLandscapers.com). CCB# 51443, LCB# 5185 ◯



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